



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
Governor

L. Hall Bohlinger  
Secretary

For Immediate Release:  
January 26, 2004

Contacts: Pam Kimball  
225.219.3271  
Jean Kelly  
225.219.3966

### **ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS**

#### **DEQ URGES CITIZENS TO JOIN THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP**

It's time for the Great American Cleanup 2004 and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is urging everyone to participate.

DEQ is Louisiana's coordinating agency for Keep America Beautiful, Inc. From March 1 through May 30 Great American Cleanup events are going to be scheduled throughout the state. DEQ encourages all Louisiana citizens to participate through volunteer groups or community organizations in this litter prevention, beautification and community improvement program.

Every spring, from March to May, extraordinary acts of civic pride and renewal take place. During the 2003 Great American Cleanup Campaign, more than 15,000 volunteers in Louisiana cared enough about their community and state to conduct cleanups, beautification projects and educational programs. Volunteers contributed more than 38,389 man-hours removing trash and debris from our highways and public areas. Approximately 3.2 million pounds of litter and debris were collected during this event.

Louisianans joined more than 2.3 million volunteers in 14,000 communities in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Winnipeg, Canada who participated in this annual event. Organized groups representing local communities, colleges/universities, scouts, sports teams, military personnel, as well as corporations, local businesses, civil leagues, youth groups and families took part in this tremendous effort.

The Keep Louisiana Beautiful Program at DEQ serves as a clearinghouse for all information received for distribution from the Keep America Beautiful national office. DEQ promotes this event on a statewide basis and works with local communities in planning their event and provides material that they may need to conduct their cleanups or educational programs during this event.

For more information on activities in your area or how to become a Great American Cleanup participant, please phone Pam Kimball at (225) 219-3271 or visit DEQ web page at [www.deq.state.la.us/assistance/litter](http://www.deq.state.la.us/assistance/litter)